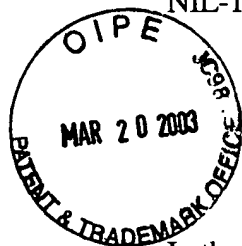


NIL-176

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Patent Application of

Tsutomu WATADA et al.

Serial No. 10/092,493

Filed: March 8, 2002

For: POSITIONING METHOD AND
POSITIONING STRUCTURE OF
INHIBITOR SWITCH

Group Art Unit: 2832

Examiner: Not Assigned

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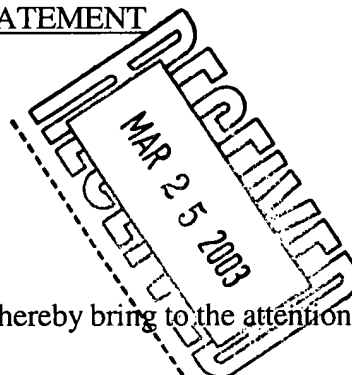
SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

By this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner four (4) additional documents identified on an accompanying form PTO-1449.

Applicants respectfully submit that this IDS is filed in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98. In particular, in form PTO-1449, each U.S. patent is identified by patentee, patent number, and issue date. Moreover, each foreign patent or published foreign application is identified by the country or patent office that issued the patent or published the application, an appropriate document number, and the publication date indicated on the patent or published application. Applicants have also provided a legible copy of each listed U.S. and foreign patent or publication, as well as an English language abstract of non-English language documents, where applicable.



A copy of the European Search Report ESR with its Annex is provided for the convenience of the Examiner and to show the purported relevance of the foreign language documents.

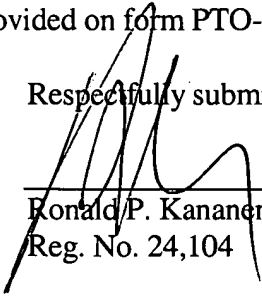
Applicants note that each of these documents was categorized in Category A, as merely providing technological background with relevance to claims 1 and 11 of the counterpart EP application as filed. This submission is timely in that it is made prior to the initial action on the merits.

The filing of this IDS is not a representation that a search has been made, and is not an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability of the above-identified application. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that this IDS is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, no fee is required.

Based on the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that this IDS complies with the requirements set forth in 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98. As a result, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider these documents, and provide a clear record of their consideration by initialing the appropriate boxes provided on form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 20, 2003



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